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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/992,496	11/06/2001	Kenneth G. Lang	60,130-1117;01MRA0227	6792

26096 7590 07/11/2003

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EXAMINER

ILAN, RUTH

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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3616

DATE MAILED: 07/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/992,496

Applicant(s)

LANG ET AL.

Examiner

Ruth Ilan

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) \_\_\_\_.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). \_\_\_\_.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## DETAILED ACTION

### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Albrecht et al. (DE 19806499 A1) in view of Galazin et al. (WO 00/53442.) Albrecht et al. (Figures 1-3 and attached English language abstract) teaches a height holding device for an air spring (3) including a hydraulic ram (15) and a spring biasing mechanism (33), and further teaches that such a device is useful when mounted between the vehicle running gear and the chassis and is activated when the vehicle is at rest to maintain the height of the vehicle during loading (see English abstract.) Albrecht et al. does not disclose the installation details of the device, and also does not disclose an actuator, or that such a device is actuated upon application of the parking brake. Galazin et al. teaches that it is known in the art that a complete air spring suspension system includes bead and retainer plates for the air spring (see Figure 1.) It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include bead and support plates for the air spring of Albrecht et al., as taught by Galazin et al., in order to provide the required connection between the air spring and the sprung and unsprung masses for the vehicle. Regarding the actuator, the Examiner takes Official Notice that height control systems and valves, as shown in

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Figures 1-3 of Albrecht et al. generally require actuators, and it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to include an actuator with the system of Albrecht et al. to complete the control. Regarding the application of the parking brake, Galazin et al. teaches that it is known in the art to use the parking brake as the signal for actuation of the height locking mechanism (see page 10, lines 20-25) because then it is known that the vehicle is at a standstill. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to actuate the height control lock of Albrecht et al. based on the application of the parking brake, as taught by Galazin et al., in order to provide a safe system that only actuates when the vehicle is at a standstill. Regarding the limitation of the height holding device partially supported on the bead plate, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to support the device on the bead plate, since it has been held that the rearranging or location of the parts of an invention involves only routine skill in the art. *In re Japikse*, 86 USPQ 70.

### ***Conclusion***


3. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. Tenggara, Albrecht et al. (DE 19858259 A1 and 19539151 A1), Hancock, Morgan, Steiner, and Bruneau teach air spring suspensions of interest.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ruth Ilan whose telephone number is 703-306-5956. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Paul Dickson can be reached on 703-308-2089. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-872-9326 for regular communications and 703-872-9327 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-1113.

Ruth Ilan  
Examiner  
Art Unit 3616

  
7/9/03

RI  
July 9, 2003